

# Wabash Plain Dealer

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**WEDNESDAY,**  
MARCH 24, 2021

\$3

Shining light on Wabash County since 1859.

Tomorrow's weather **66** | **44** 



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## Second Harvest to hold tailgate food distributions

Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana has planned tailgate food distributions for noon Wednesday, April 14 at Manchester Church of the Brethren, 1306 Beckley St., North Manchester; and 11 a.m. Wednesday, March 24 and Wednesday, April 28 at Bachelor Creek Church of Christ, 2147 Indiana 15. For more information, visit [www.curehunger.org](http://www.curehunger.org).

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## Inside

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# Hoosiers 40 and older now eligible for vaccine

As of Tuesday, 6,729 in Wabash County had received at least their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine

**By ROB BURGESS**  
 Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

Starting Monday, Hoosiers ages 40 and older became eligible to receive a free COVID-19 vaccine.

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) said on Saturday that this expansion of eligibility to include those ages 40 to 44 will make the vaccine available

to more than 400,000 additional Hoosiers.

"Additional groups will be added as more vaccine becomes available," said the ISDH.

This expansion comes quickly on the heels of last week's announcement that those 45 and older are being eligible for the vaccine.

Looking ahead, Moderna announced last week that they had begun vaccine trials in those under 18.

During a televised press conference Wednesday, March 17, state health commissioner Dr. Kristina Box said "several" companies were studying the effects in 12- to 16-year-olds.

"We hope to have that information out this summer. I think that other younger children and certainly the infants will be more in the fall time," said Box. "We will be working hopefully at the end of the year here to get 16 and above vaccinated before they leave school, to get all of those kids in college vaccinated before they head home. And then work over the summer potentially to get some of the adolescents vaccinated and still be working in the schools when we come back in the fall."

As of Tuesday, 4,902 people had been fully vaccinated in Wabash County, with 18 second doses having

been administered locally on Thursday alone. Also as of Tuesday, 6,729 people locally had received at least their first dose, with 35 of those having been administered Thursday alone.

As of Tuesday, a total of 2,439,523 doses have been administered in Indiana. This includes 1,469,362 first doses and 970,161 individuals who are fully vaccinated. The fully vaccinated number represents individuals who have received a second dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines and those who received the single Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

See **VACCINE**, page A10

# New WPD probationary officer sworn in



Wabash Police Department (WPD) probationary officer Adam R. Kneubuhler is officially sworn in during Monday's Wabash City Council meeting.

Adam R. Kneubuhler is the second new hire to begin duties so far in 2021

**By ROB BURGESS**  
 Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

At Monday's Wabash City Council meeting, Adam R. Kneubuhler became the second Wabash Police Department (WPD) probationary officer to begin their duties so far in 2021.

Mayor Scott Long's assistant Bev Vanderpool said

At Large Councilman John Burnsworth administered the oath because Long was unavailable.

WPD public information officer Capt. Matt A. Benson said Kneubuhler grew up in Kendallville and graduated from East Noble High School in 2010.

Benson said Kneubuhler is married and has one child,

and all three of them reside in Wabash.

"Officer Kneubuhler has completed his 40-hour preliminary training over the last week and will be starting on patrol soon," said Benson.

Benson said as with all new officers, Kneubuhler will be required to attend the Indiana Law Enforcement

Academy within his first year.

The position had been advertised earlier this year, with applications having been accepted through Friday, Feb. 26.

The first probationary WPD officer to be sworn in during 2021 was Gareth L.

See **SWORN IN**, page A10

# After delay, Wabash Tri Kappa Spring Gala Fundraiser set for April

Event to raise scholarship funds for Northfield, Southwood, Wabash seniors

**By ROB BURGESS**  
 Wabash Plain Dealer Editor

The COVID-19 pandemic delayed the Wabash Tri Kappa Spring Gala Fundraiser, but the show will still go on next month.

Bev Vanderpool said they usually hold the annual event in February each year, but the virus had caused them

to delay until April this time around.

Vanderpool said the Spring Gala Fundraiser will include "great food, a dessert auction and dancing."

The event has been rescheduled for Saturday, April 17 at Heartland REMC, 350 Wedcor Ave. Doors will open at 6 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. A cash bar will also be available.

Vanderpool said COVID-19 precautions will still be in effect during the evening.

See **GALA**, page A10



Anita Roos and Jennifer Whetstone create decorations for the Wabash Tri Kappa Spring Gala Fundraiser.



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# Holcomb lifting statewide mask mandate in 2 weeks

By TOM DAVIES  
Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS — Indiana’s governor announced Tuesday he would lift the statewide mask mandate and remaining COVID-19 business restrictions in two weeks.

Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb said in a speech from his Statehouse office that the state’s steep declines in coronavirus hospitalization and deaths rates along with the growing number of people fully vaccinated justify the steps starting April 6.

Holcomb said he hoped the state was seeing the “tail end of this pandemic” that has killed nearly 13,000 people in the state over the past year.

The date for ending the mask mandate was picked to coincide with the ending of the NCAA men’s basketball tournament now being held in Indianapolis and to allow more time for people with at-risk health conditions to get vaccine shots, Holcomb said.

Local officials would still have the authority to impose tougher restrictions in response to COVID-19 cases in their communities and

face mask use would still be required in K-12 schools for rest of this school year, Holcomb said.

He urged residents to continue wearing masks in public and that bars and restaurants continue to space out their tables.

While Holcomb has faced public pressure and from conservative state lawmakers to ease restrictions, especially after governors in Texas and other states have done so recently, he didn’t make any bold victory announcements and asked residents to respect rules adopted by businesses and others.

“Whether that is a bank branch lobby, on the factory floor or a county courthouse or city hall, they retain the authority to make decisions about COVID restrictions for their operations and should be afforded the respect, compliance and understanding of all who visit them,” Holcomb said.

“When I visit my favorite restaurants or conduct a public event, I will continue to appropriately wear a mask, it’s the right thing to do.”

But some health experts worry it is premature to lift the statewide restrictions,

pointing to the steep increase in hospitalizations and deaths the state saw beginning in September after the governor lifted most business restrictions before reinstating crowd limits several weeks later.

“We put a lot of restrictions in place last year, there was some initial hesitation by some parts of the population to comply with some of those orders,” said Brian Dixon, an epidemiologist at Indiana University’s Fairbanks School of Public Health. “And then what we saw in the fall is that rates went up, they skyrocketed because people were not following precautions.”

Holcomb said the state would open up vaccine eligibility for all residents 16 and older starting March 31 and that additional mass vaccination clinics were being planned for April.

The governor’s public health emergency for the state will remain in place through April, which Holcomb said would allow state officials to take quick action if needed and gives the state access to hundreds of millions of dollars in federal funding.

# Indiana extends tax filing deadline following federal delay

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced an extension Monday to the 2020 Indiana individual income tax filing deadline, allowing Hoosiers more time to navigate tax situations amid the ongoing coronavirus pandemic.

An executive order signed by the Republican governor delays state individual income tax filings and payments from April 15 to May 17. All other tax return filings and payment due dates remain unchanged.

The tax schedule delay aligns the state with the fed-

eral government, which last week extended the deadline to file and pay federal individual income tax until May 17.

“By aligning with the IRS filing deadline, we are ensuring we are making filing and paying taxes as easy as possible for Hoosiers,” said Indiana Department of Revenue Commissioner Bob Grennes.

Individuals are still encouraged to file taxes electronically to ensure accuracy and faster refunds, Grennes continued.

Those who are unable to

file by the May 17 deadline can file an extension directly with the state department of revenue or with the Internal Revenue Service. If the IRS extension is granted, the Indiana extension is automatically granted.

Extensions move the federal tax filing deadline to Oct. 15, and the Indiana filing deadline to Nov. 15.

Extension only shift the filing deadline and not the payment deadline, however. Ninety percent of the taxes owed are still required to be paid by May 17 to avoid penalties and interest.

# Gen Con delays annual gaming convention in Indianapolis

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A gaming convention that draws tens of thousands of visitors to Indianapolis has pushed back the annual gathering amid plans to make it a hybrid event due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The Seattle-based Gen Con convention will run Sept. 16-19, instead of Aug. 5-8 as originally planned, the Indianapolis Business Journal reported.

Gen Con typically draws about 70,000 people to the Indiana Convention Center each

year, but organizers canceled last year’s in-person convention because of the pandemic in favor of online offerings. Indianapolis will host Gen Con through 2026.

In a statement on Gen Con’s website, event organizers said they believe the calendar change is the “best approach both to meet the many challenges of the moment and to explore possibilities for the future.”

Gen Con said it plans to offer an in-person convention with capped attendance, at-home

events through the convention website and live-streaming services, and through partnerships with local game stores for pop-up activities.

The convention said it plans to “adapt to conditions as they are in September,” but the total in-person attendance will be determined by the Marion County Public Health Department.

“Convention planning happens on a long timeline, and we appreciate your continued patience as we tread these murky waters,” the group said.

# Opening set for new Gary casino after investigation’s delays

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — A new \$300 million casino in northwestern Indiana is set to open in mid-May after delays caused by a state investigation into allegations of financial wrongdoings by the casino developer’s former top executive.

The Indiana Gaming Commission on Tuesday also approved a settlement with a \$530,000 fine against Indianapolis-based Spectacle Entertainment over missing by 53 days a deadline for ex-company CEO Rod Rat-

cliff to sell his ownership stake in the new Hard Rock Casino Northern Indiana in Gary.

Ratcliff agreed in early March to also permanently give up his state casino license after a couple decades as a heavyweight in Indiana’s gambling industry.

Hard Rock Casino executive Jon Lucas said the new casino was expected to open to the public on May 15. The new casino along Interstate 80/94 will replace the existing Majestic Star casino

along Lake Michigan.

The developer of the planned \$125 million casino in Terre Haute told the commission that a late April groundbreaking is planned for the project.

Ratcliff and another former Spectacle executive were forced last year to give up their ownership stake in the Terre Haute casino to business partner Greg Gibson after they faced allegations of making illegal political campaign contributions with casino company money.

# Drag strip closes its gates after 63 years

OSCEOLA (AP) — A northern Indiana drag strip has closed its gates after more than six decades of playing host to drag races.

The Osceola Dragway announced Friday in a Facebook post that it will not be opening for the 2021 season and that “after 63 years, our gates will be permanently closed.”

Track officials wrote that the decision to close the site “was not an easy one” but

said the coronavirus pandemic had impacted ongoing efforts that began in 2016 to sell the property, which is located a few miles west of Elkhart.

The International Hot Rod Association-sanctioned track had opened for a pandemic-shortened season in 2020, The Elkhart Truth reported.






Ryan Gortney, a longtime racer at the track, said in a statement that he was “devastated and in disbelief” by the

dragway’s closure.

The track was founded in 1957 and features a quarter-mile drag strip through the center of the 170-acre property, with adjacent bleachers.





Plans were announced in late 2019 to expand and transform the dragway under new ownership into the Hoosier Motorsports and Business Park, which would have boasted a test track, additional bleachers and office space.

### 5-Day Weather Summary

|  |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <br><b>Wednesday</b><br>Few Showers<br>70 / 50 | <br><b>Thursday</b><br>Few Showers<br>66 / 44 | <br><b>Friday</b><br>Showers Likely<br>56 / 39 | <br><b>Saturday</b><br>Partly Cloudy<br>65 / 45 | <br><b>Sunday</b><br>Few Showers<br>58 / 36 |
|--|--|---|--|--|

### Sun and Moon

Today's sunset ..... 7:59 p.m.  
Tomorrow's sunrise ..... 7:38 a.m.

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <br>Full<br>3/28 | <br>Last<br>4/4 | <br>New<br>4/11 | <br>First<br>4/20 |
|---|---|--|--|

### Detailed Local Outlook

Today we will see partly cloudy skies with a 50% chance of showers, high temperature of 70°, humidity of 58%. South wind 15 to 19 mph. Expect partly cloudy skies tonight with a 30% chance of showers, overnight low of 50°. South wind 3 to 17 mph.

# Wabash VFW Post No. 286 to host tenderloin dinner Friday

The Wabash Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post No. 286 will host a tenderloin dinner from 4 to 7 p.m. Friday, March 26 at 3678 W. Old 24, according to Dan Ford.

The menu will include hand-breaded tenderloin, potato salad and coleslaw.

The cost will be \$9 per person. The event will be open to the public. Carryout will be available.

Ford said the event will follow COVID-19 guidelines.

For more information, call 260-563-2463.

# Let’s find common ground

Imagine feeling so alienated from your body that you would consider taking cross-sex hormones and removing your genitals. That’s the tragic situation that many people with gender dysphoria experience. They aren’t faking it, and they didn’t actively choose it.”

That’s how a recent op-ed from Ryan T.

**Kathryn Lopez**



Anderson began. And it is the kind of compassionate spirit that animates his book “When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment,” which has been recently banned from Amazon.

Anderson, a former fellow at the Heritage Foundation and current president of the Ethics and Public Policy

Center, is no man of the left. But gender dysphoria is uniting people of all political stripes. As it should. I recently watched on Twitter as women on the left expressed regret that they had to link to a post by my courageous and tenacious colleague Madeleine Kearns on National Review’s website because no one else will write about these issues honestly.

Maddy was writing about the Senate confirmation hearings for Department of Health and Human Services official Dr. Rachel Levine, during which Rand Paul asked some very basic questions about children and gender transitioning, some of which Levine refused to answer. That seems worthy of acknowledgment, and, dare I say it, discussion!

As Anderson writes in the postscript to the paperback edition of “When Harry Became Sally,” he hosted a forum of which “(o)ne of the organizers needed to remain anonymous, because she has a teenage daughter who was four years into the process of transitioning. Throughout that time she’s been trying to get left-leaning media and think tanks and professional associations to take seriously the concerns coming from the left about transgender policy, and instead she’s found herself and her colleagues essentially deplatformed.”

As Anderson noted, “We likely disagree about abortion, gay marriage, taxes, trade, foreign policy --just to name a few.” But, he continued: “(W)here we do agree, we can and should work together.”

# BMV adding 5 languages for written test

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles says five more languages will be added in the coming months to those available to prospective motorists for taking their state driver’s license written exams.

American Sign Language, the first of five new languages, will be available March

29. Four additional languages — Hindi, Croatian, Serbian, and Tagalog — will be added in the coming months as translations and peer reviews are completed.


“Because ASL will be available in our computer-based system it will eliminate the requirement for these exams to be scheduled in advance,” BMV Commissioner Peter

Lacy said in a news release.

Written exams, formerly offered on paper, have been completed on computer terminals since 2013.

All non-English translations of the exam are completed by certified translators and undergo a peer-review process prior to publication.

The written exams currently are available in 14 languages.



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■ Retail: cbrown@wabashplainedealer.com

### Talk to us

**Linda Kelsay**, Publisher  
lkelsay@wabashplainedealer.com

**Rob Burgess**, Editor  
rburgess@wabashplainedealer.com

**Vicki Williams**, Advertising Director  
vwilliams@h-ponline.com

**Main number:** 260-563-2131

**Newsroom**  
260-563-2131  
news@wabashplainedealer.com

**Website**  
www.wabashplainedealer.com

**Fax:** 260-563-0816

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# Obituaries

## John Ellison Hammons

March 18, 1957 – March 21, 2021

John Ellison Hammons, 64, North Manchester, Indiana, passed away on March 21, 2021 at his home. Born on March 18, 1957 in Newport, Kentucky, John was the son of the late Glen and Emma Jane (Bailey) Hammons.

On March 12, 1977 John married Patricia Hooker. During their time together, they had two children, Brian and Amanda Hammons. For over twenty years John supported the family as a truck driver for Pierceton Trucking Company. He also helped build homes and worked on construction projects. Although John worked hard, he also liked to relax with his family, especially his grandchildren. His family and friends always enjoyed his gift of storytelling, and his sense of humor brought joy to those around him. However, John would also stand up for what was right and just when it came to family.

The precious memory of John Hammons will be forever cherished by Patricia Hammons; son, Brian (Sonya) Hammons, North Manchester; daughter, Amanda (Jason) Ward, Fort Wayne; brothers, Glen (Connie) Hammons, Energy, Illinois and Ed (Sue) Purvis, Wabash, Indiana; sisters, Mary Kline and Marea (Allen) Kline, both of North Manchester; two grandchildren, Kean and Keshawn Ward; and his cat Rush. John was preceded in death by his



parents, Glen Hammons and Emma Jane Purvis; and brother-in-law, Ron Kline.

Family and friends may call Friday, March 26, 2021 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester, Indiana. Funeral services will begin at the conclusion of calling. Pastor J.P. Freeman will officiate. Burial will be at Oaklawn Cemetery, 600 Beckley Street, North Manchester, Indiana.

For those who wish to honor the memory of John Hammons, a love offering may be made to McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road 114 West, North Manchester, Indiana 46962 to assist with final expenses.

The family of John Hammons has entrusted McKee Mortuary with final arrangements.

Condolences may be emailed to [mckeemortuary.com](mailto:mckeemortuary.com)

## Jim Dean Krom

Services for Jim Dean Krom, 82, of rural Urbana, Indiana were 2 p.m., Friday, March 19, 2021 at Grandstaff-Hentgen Funeral Service, Wabash. Brian Chamberlain and Larry Wade officiated and Janene Dawes was the musician.

Memories were shared by son, Terry Krom, daugh-

ter-in-law, Carla Krom, and brother-in-law, Larry Frieden. Pallbearers were Nick Krom, Andrew Krom, Steve Powell, Cody Chamberlain, Kris Biehl, and Calvin Gish. Honorary Pallbearers were Jeremy Krom, Larry Frieden and Bill Greer. Burial was in St. Peter's Cemetery, Urbana.

## Eleanor ‘Ellie’ Draper

Oct. 12, 1938 – March 21, 2021

Eleanor “Ellie” Draper, 82, of Roann, Indiana, died at 9:41 pm, Sunday, March 21, 2021 at her home. She was born Oct. 12, 1938 in Wabash, Indiana, to James and Vera Friederika (Gray) Van Buskirk.

Ellie was a 1956 graduate of Roann High School. She attended Purdue University, Earlham College, received her bachelor's degree in 1960, from Manchester College, and her Masters degree in 1966 from Ball State University. Ellie was a teacher, and owned and operated Van Buskirk Insurance Agency in Roann from 1985 – 2000. She was a member of Olive Branch Church, and the Ol-

ive Branch Bible Study. She also belonged to the Roann Community Heritage, the Happy Homemakers Home Economics Club, and the Valley Rich Red Hat Society. Ellie was recognized as Indiana Homemaker of the Year Top Ten. She served as Chairperson of the Roann Sesquicentennial Committee in 2003, and volunteered at the Roann Carnegie Public Library and the Stockdale Mill Association. Ellie enjoyed her children, grandchildren, family reunions, nature walks, reading, sewing, flower gardens, bird and squirrel watching, and sports.

She is survived by three

children, Jeff (Beth) Draper of Noblesville, Indiana, Jennifer Draper of Warsaw, Indiana, and Jeannine Draper Cooley of Roann; pseudo daughter, Debbie (David) Williams of Roann; four grandchildren, Rebecca (Drew) Burcham of Huntington, Indiana, Kyle Draper of Noblesville, Paige Cooley of Frankfort, Indiana, and Lauren Draper of Noblesville; six great-grandchildren, Karter Stafford, Korbin Stafford, Kenzi Stafford, Preston Burcham, Xander Burcham, and Isabella Draffen, all of Huntington; and her sister, Priscilla (Ross) Burdge of Akron,

Indiana. She was preceded in death by her parents, and a great-grandson, Lawson Garcia.

Graveside services and burial will be 10 a.m. Saturday, March 27, 2021, at the Roann Community Cemetery, with David Laborde officiating. Friends may call 5-8 p.m. Thursday, at Grandstaff-Hentgen Roann, Chapel, 335 S. Chippewa Road, Roann, Indiana.

Preferred memorials are the Roann Carnegie Public Library or Roann Community Heritage.

The memorial guest book for Ellie may be signed at [www.grandstaff-hentgen.com](http://www.grandstaff-hentgen.com).

## Margaret Arloene Metzger

Margaret Arloene Metzger, 98, North Manchester, died March 20, 2021. Arloene was born on Oct. 26, 1922 in Kosciusko County.

Arloene is survived by her sons, Kenneth (Kelly)

Metzger and Keith (Priscilla) Metzger; daughter, Carol (Rodney) Rooney; sixteen grandchildren, and twenty-six great-grandchildren.

Calling Wednesday, March 24, 2021 from

3 p.m. to 7 p.m. at McKee Mortuary, 1401 State Road, 114 West, North Manchester. Funeral services will begin on Thursday, March 25, 2021 at 10 a.m. with calling beginning at 9 a.m.

at McKee Mortuary. Burial will be at Ulrey Memorial Cemetery, Silver Lake, Indiana.

McKee Mortuary is entrusted with final arrangements.

## George Arthur Hunn Jr.

April 22, 1932 – Feb. 28, 2021

George Arthur Hunn Jr., known as “Art,” was born on April 22, 1932 in North Manchester, IN to George and Dorothy (Metzger) Hunn. Art was the second of five children, and was preceded in death by both brothers and one sister.

At Jefferson High School, near Dayton, OH, Art participated in FFA, drama, basketball, choir and band (playing trombone), and graduated in 1950. He studied at Manchester College from 1950 to 1954, graduating with a BA in Speech and Drama. He earned his Master of Divinity at Bethany Theological Seminary in Chicago in 1957.

Art and Phyllis Heeter were married at the Elkhart Church of the Brethren on Dec. 19, 1953.

Art and Phyllis’s children are Becky (Dennis) Unger, Jeff (Jane Cross) Hunn, and Julie (Bill) Baxter, all of North Manchester. They also have four grandchildren, Matt (Lindsey) Unger, Amy (Kyle Leffel) Unger, Lauren Baxter, and Megan Baxter, and five great-grandchildren, Ayla and Lennon Leffel, Lilly and Grayson Unger, and Holden Wigglesworth.

Art served as a Church of the Brethren pastor in Meyersdale, PA, Aurora, IL and Polo, IL. In 2000, after 44 years of pastoring, Art and Phyllis retired and moved back to North Manchester. There they became members of the Manchester Church of the Brethren, involved in music and various other activities. They moved to Timbercrest Retirement Community in 2012.

Art loved to travel with Phyllis and his family. They attended many Church of



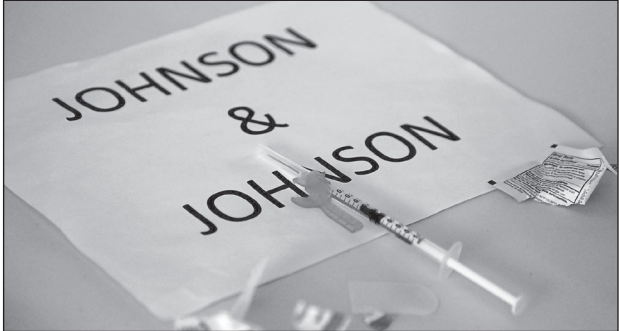
the Brethren Annual Conferences and visited the Holy Land and Europe together. Art and Phyllis were trained as disaster child care volunteers, serving in New Orleans and other locations. Art also participated in mission trips to Nicaragua and Honduras.

Art had a passion for being active through walking, bicycling, tennis and pickleball. He was also an avid reader, chess player, chapel speaker, and choir member.

Art cared deeply for others, getting to know them and sharing a laugh. He modeled gratitude to God and finding joy in each day. He persisted through sicknesses and in spite of his deep grief at losing Phyllis on Oct. 8, 2015. Always looking to serve, he requested that his body be donated to Indiana University Medical Center. Art will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Art’s memorial service can be accessed at Manchester Church of the Brethren’s YouTube channel. ( [https://youtu.be/VsNogv9M\\_2Y](https://youtu.be/VsNogv9M_2Y))

Memorial contributions may be made to Heifer International ([heifer.org](http://heifer.org)), one of Art’s favorite charities.



Carline Jean / South Florida Sun Sentinel

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine was administered at a FEMA COVID-19 vaccination site at Miami Dade College North Campus. Some states are seeing delays in the distribution of the vaccine.

# Johnson & Johnson under pressure to deliver promised vaccine doses to states

By **EMILY KOPP**  
CQ-Roll Call (TNS)

WASHINGTON — Johnson & Johnson is under pressure to deliver its promised 20 million vaccine doses by next week, as several state public health officials indicate they are receiving few or no shots this week and have no idea how much they’ll get later.

The uncertainty comes at a time when the demand for vaccines continues to overwhelm supply, a weary country braces for the spread of viral variants and hundreds of people die from COVID-19 each day. It raises questions about how successful the company was in meeting a central goal of the massive U.S. investment in vaccine development: to manufacture sufficient supplies of shots before they were proven effective in order to hit the ground running.

The delays could undercut vaccinations in rural and low-income areas without access to deep freezers needed for one of the two other authorized vaccines. Johnson & Johnson’s single-dose shot is helpful in those places since it’s durable for three months in the refrigerator.

The bumpy supply also jeopardizes President Joe Biden’s promise, made days after his inauguration, to be more transparent by giving states three weeks’ notice of upcoming supply.

Federal officials have told states they expect supply to pick up but have acknowledged uncertainty.

“We are going to see a nice increase in Johnson & Johnson this week,” Andy Slavitt, White House senior adviser for the COVID-19 response team, said Monday. He declined to give precise numbers on the quantity of doses.

“I wouldn’t signal to you that they’re going to be far away from the numbers that they have projected at all, give or take a little bit,” he said. “Obviously, we’re holding them accountable and working closely with them.”

The 20 million target was revised down from the 37 million vaccine doses the company initially set out to deliver by the end of March under the contract it signed with the U.S. government last year.

If the 37 million doses are delayed by longer than a 30-day grace period, the government can decline to pay for any supplies that have not arrived, but advocates say that is not a big enough stick to compel the company to make doses on time.

Johnson & Johnson said it expects to hit the 20 million target.

“The company has begun shipping its COVID-19 vaccine and expects to deliver enough single-shot vaccines by the end of March to enable the full vaccination of more than 20 million people in the U.S.,” said Srey Dasgupta, a Johnson & Johnson spokesperson. Dasgupta did not respond to a question about the original goal.

The government has dedicated about \$1.5 billion to the vaccine, according to the Congressional Research Service.

Some experts stress there are many challenges in scal-

ing up in a pandemic, while others say the industry is not incentivized to invest in innovative methods.

Arizona, Washington state and Indiana officials all said they didn’t know how much Johnson & Johnson vaccine to expect through the end of March.

Kentucky, Idaho and Wyoming say they expect some doses this week, but the amounts are a fraction of their first shipments.

In Florida, mass vaccination sites operated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency plan to shift to administering only second shots of other vaccines as the Johnson & Johnson supply runs low.

The federal government shipped some doses to pharmacies after its Food and Drug Administration authorization, so the small distributions to states are not a complete picture of supply.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention referred questions about how many Johnson & Johnson doses will be distributed by April 1 to the Department of Health and Human Services. HHS did not respond.

The delivery schedule spelled out under the contract is that 2 million doses should have been delivered by Feb. 1; another 10 million doses by March 1; and another 25 million by April 1, totaling 37 million doses by April.

The contract calls for two batches of 25 million more doses to be delivered by May 1 and June 1. A final batch of 13 million is due by July 1.

Doses are deemed on time, the contract reads, “to the extent that they are made up to 30 calendar days after the applicable delivery date, due to delays related to manufacturing, testing, or release.”

The deal was reached under Operation Warp Speed, the Trump administration Pentagon-HHS team that led vaccine development and manufacturing.

Critics say the contract should have provided more of a deterrent to delays amid a worldwide scramble for shots.

“The Trump administration signed deals that allowed the companies to say the doses will come when they come, with little consequence,” said Zain Rizvi, a Public Citizen legal researcher specializing in pharmaceuticals.

Advocates for global vaccine access say the company could do more by sharing the vaccine “recipe,” patented details about how to make the vaccine, with more companies, but that Johnson & Johnson is withholding its proprietary information to protect profits.

“The shortages are the entirely predictable result of handing one corporation a monopoly over taxpayer-funded knowledge,” Rizvi said.

Johnson & Johnson, with help from the Trump and Biden administrations, recently reached a deal with Merck to scale up production.

“These two companies, competitors, have come together for the good of the nation, and they should be applauded for it. It’s truly a national effort, just like we saw during World War II,” Biden said in a prime-time speech.



## Southwood outpaced by Kouts in semi-state

The 86-70 loss finishes the Knights' season; 5 seniors to graduate

By CLAY MAXFIELD  
Frankfort Times Freelance Reporter

Southwood's boys basketball team traveled to Lafayette Jeff High School on Saturday afternoon to take on No. 3 Kouts High School in what became their final game of the season as they lost 86-70.

Following the game, Southwood head coach John Burrus reflected on his team's continual effort throughout the game despite Kouts high powered offense.

"We've grown into a winning team this year," Burrus said. "Our kids really sustained our effort. We made a run at them late and didn't quit. ... Our kids made some adjustments, slowed them down in the second half and I was really proud of that effort."

Saturday's game opened up with both teams getting up and down the floor as Southwood scored by committee with Carson Rich and Dawson Filip got the Knights going on offense with back-to-back buckets inside.

Carson Rich finished with a game-high 30 points while Cole Winer aided the Southwood offense with 20.

Kouts took Southwood's best shot in the opening eight minutes as they scored 27 in the first quarter while shooting 47 percent from the field in the first half.

However, the Mustangs fast-paced offense troubled Southwood all game long, something that Coach Burrus believed was a combination of their length and athletic ability along with the talent of the Wireman twins.

"They're good athletes. They've got length and really good guard play. Their guards complement each other and then with the Kneifel twins down low with all of that length. They can see over our traps and made it hard to get a pinch," he said.

Kouts two sets of twins in the Wireman brothers and Kneifel brothers combined for 81 percent of the team's scoring in the win with the Wireman's compiling 55 points together.

After going into halftime trailing 50-42, Southwood came out in the second half and held the Mustangs to 36 points. The Knights continued to struggle on offense as they shot just 28 percent from the field in the third and fourth quarters.

Midway through the fourth, Rich and Winer tried to bridge the deficit that had widened between the opposition when they went on a 6-0 run. Both players found open looks inside while Rich made successful trips to the line but the lead that had ballooned to 16 in the fourth was too much to overcome.

The 86-70 semistate loss will finish a Southwood season that graduates five seniors but Coach Burrus believes that the program's future looks bright.

"This will impact our program for years to come," Burrus said. "When you make a run like this, you see young kids get that look in their eyes. ... Win or lose, they're in it together, in it for Southwood and that's how our program is and that's what it will be moving forward."

Clay Maxfield, Frankfort Times freelance reporter, may be reached by email at [sports@wabashplainedealer.com](mailto:sports@wabashplainedealer.com).

### By the numbers

#### MUSTANGS 86, KNIGHTS 70

at Lafayette Jeff

Kouts — Cole Wireman — 13 2-4 29, Ca. Wireman 7 10-12 26, Pa. Kneifel 1 2-2 4, Hu. Kneifel 3 2-2 11, Baker 4 2-2 10, Schoon 2 2-2 6. Totals 30 23-27 86.

Southwood — Cole Winer 9 0-0 20, Ca. Rich 7 12-13 30, Barley 1 2-2 4, Co. Rich 3 0-2 6, Filip 4 -2 10. Totals 24 16-21 70.

|           |    |    |    |    |   |    |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|---|----|
| Kouts     | 27 | 23 | 14 | 22 | — | 86 |
| Southwood | 22 | 20 | 12 | 16 | — | 70 |

Three-point goals — Kouts (Co. Wireman 1, Ca. Wireman 2), Southwood (Ca. Winer 2, Ca. Rich 4). Total fouls — Kouts 19, Southwood 19.



Alex Farr is one of the five graduating seniors on the Southwood team.



Alex Farr, Southwood's No. 10, goes for the shot.



Carson Rich is another of Southwood's five graduating seniors.



Carson Rich goes for the shot.



Dawson Filip, Southwood's No. 32, makes a break for it.



Carson Rich, No. 14 for Southwood, finished with a game-high 30 points.



Carson Rich got the Knights going on offense.



Connor Rich, No. 24 for Southwood, goes for the shot.



Southwood's Dawson Filip is another of the five graduating seniors on the team.

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# Spartans earn split with Defiance

## Bats break out in Game 2

By **DILLON BENDER**

The Manchester University baseball team overcame a late deficit by scoring eight runs in the home half of the eighth inning in Game 2 of Saturday's doubleheader to earn a split with the Yellow Jackets. The victory also ended a six-game skid for the Black and Gold.

Manchester opened Saturday's doubleheader with three runs in the bottom of the first inning.

Defiance slowly chipped away at the Spartans' lead, eventually taking a one-run lead in the top of the 4th inning.

After the Spartans tied Game 1 up in the fourth, Defiance retook the lead for good in the top of the fifth inning.

Carter Hooks, from Rochester, was terrific in relief, throwing four scoreless innings. Hooks didn't allow a hit and stuck out 10 of the 14 batters he faced.

After a fairly pedestrian opener, Game 2 of Saturday's doubleheader saw both offenses come alive.

The Yellow Jackets took an early 3-0 lead and the visitors

held their advantage until the bottom of the 8th.

Manchester exploded for eight runs as three different Yellow Jacket relievers surrendered 8 runs in the 8th frame.

Joe Henschel, from Huntertown and Carroll High School, tied the game at seven with an RBI single to left.

The flood gates opened from there as Alex Morr, from Bryan, Ohio, Hunter Seegers, from Westport, and South Decatur High School, and Austin Knowles, from Nassau, Bahamas, and Athens Christian High School in Georgia, all hit two-run singles in the inning.

The Spartans pumped out 19 hits in Game 2. Austin Knowles went 4-6 with three runs scored. Joe Henschel also hit a three-run home run to the right-center. Brady Perez, from Rochester, went a perfect 4-4 in Game 2 with a home run and 2 RBI.

Keegan Stevens, from Rennselaer, and Rennselaer Central High School, picked up his first win in relief.

Manchester (3-7, 3-7 HCAC) will host Bluffton in a single game on Wednesday, March 24, at 4 p.m. at Gratz Field.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

# Spartans fall to Knights on Saturday

By **DILLON BENDER**

The Manchester University softball team dropped a non-conference doubleheader to visiting Calvin University at the MU Softball Field on Saturday, March 20.

The Knights captured Game 1 of today's doubleheader by a final score of 11-1 in six innings. CU took Game 2 13-3.

Calvin had a pair of big innings in the first game of Saturday's doubleheader,

scoring six runs in the top of the fourth inning and five runs in the top of the sixth.

Manchester was limited to just four hits in the opening game.

Kirsten Krause struck out seven batters for Calvin in Game 1.

Manchester was staked out to an early 2-1 lead in Game 2 following a two-run home run from Kodi Douglass, from Huntington and Huntington North High School. It was Douglass' third home run in as many games.

Calvin would take the lead in the top of the 3rd inning after plating a trio of runs. The Knights would add 8 runs in the top of the 7th. Alexis Mokos, from Cedar Lake and Hanover Central High School, went 3-4 in Game 2 and is batting a team-best .647 (11-17) through six games this season.

The Spartans (1-5) traveled to nationally-ranked Trine University on Tuesday, March 23.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

# Spartans turned away by Yellow Jackets

## Manchester will now gear up for Saturday's Bronze Ball game against rival Anderson

By **DILLON BENDER**

The Manchester University football team fell in Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference action on the road at Defiance College on Saturday, March 20.

The Yellow Jackets came away with five critical take-aways on the afternoon en route to a 22-16 victory. The Spartans fumbled twice and had three passes intercepted in the red zone.

The Black and Gold led for most of Saturday's game before Defiance rallied to score 16 of its 22 points in the fourth quarter.

Manchester opened the scoring in the first quarter with a 15-play, 64-yard drive that was capped by a 5-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Bryce Tomasi, from

Mishawaka and Marian High School, to wide receiver Darren Lathrop, from Lafayette and McCutcheon High School.

After the Yellow Jackets responded with a 47-yard touchdown run by Machari Bighams, the ensuing PAT was blocked by a host of Spartans and returned by Jaquan Walker, from Johnson, Florida, and Interlachen High School, for a safety. The Spartans led 9-6 at the end of the first quarter. That lead would hold until the final period of the contest.

After a Spartan turnover, the Yellow Jackets capitalized with a 5-yard run from Daylon Lange. The ensuing 2-point conversion attempt succeed and put Defiance College ahead 14-9.

The Spartans were unable

to regain the lead as a pass from Zac Montgomery, from Knightstown and Mt. Vernon High School, was picked off in the end zone. Defiance would go on to string together a 6-play, 80-yard scoring drive that staked the Yellow Jackets out to a 22-9 lead with just over eight minutes to play.

The Spartans would find the end zone before the conclusion of the game as Zac Montgomery connected with Harrington Greer, from South Bend and Riley High School, on a 19-yard strike.

The Black and Gold held a narrow 311-308 advantage in total yards of offense on Saturday. MU threw for 272 yards. Bryce Tomasi finished 30-41 for 186 yards and score while Montgomery ended the day 9-13 for 86 yards.

Darren Lathrop caught 13 passes for 85 yards while Harrington Greer hauled in nine passes for 64 yards.

Joseph Powell, from Beach Park, Illinois, and Zion Benton High School, had seven receptions go for 52 yards. Nine different players had at least one reception against the Yellow Jackets.

Manchester's defense had eight tackles-for-loss and 2.0 sacks. Kobe Roberson, from Michigan City, had 10 tackles while Nick Tillmann, from Lawrenceburg and East Central High School, had seven tackles. Both had one tackle-for-loss. Marvin Collins, from Riviera Beach, Florida, and Palm Beach Gardens High School, had six tackles, one sack, and two tackles-for-loss.

Manchester will now gear up for the Bronze Ball game against rival Anderson on Saturday, March 27. Kickoff from Anderson is slated for 1:30 p.m.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

# Manchester falls to Hanover in men's soccer action

By **DILLON BENDER**

The Manchester University Spartans hosted the Hanover College Panthers in Spartan Stadium on Saturday, March 20. The visiting Panthers came away with a 4-0 victory as Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) play continued for both schools.

Hanover got on the board early in the contest, netting a goal in the fourth minute. Josh Hughes scored his fifth goal of the season to put the Panthers ahead. HC added another goal in the 16th minute

when Luke Eppler was able to find the back of the net.

The visiting Panthers would double their advantage with goals in the 74th and 83rd minutes.

On the day, HC outshot Manchester 10-3 and held a slight lead in corner kicks taken at 4-1.

Manchester (3-3, 3-3 HCAC) will host rival Anderson University on Wednesday, March 24. Kickoff is scheduled for 4 p.m.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director at Manchester University.*

# Hanover shuts out MU women's soccer

By **DILLON BENDER**

The Manchester University women's soccer team dropped a Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) matchup to Hanover College on Saturday, March 20, in Spartan Stadium.

The Panthers shut out the Spartans 4-0 to improve to 5-0 on the season.

Hanover's Autumn Boothby scored the first two Ha-

nover goals in the 39th and 67th minutes. Maggie Day would add a goal in the 73rd minute while Molly Johnson tallied a goal in the 75th minute.

Manchester (0-5) will travel to rival Anderson University on Wednesday, March 24. Kickoff from Anderson is scheduled for 3:30 p.m.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

# Men's tennis drops HCAC opener to Rose-Hulman

By **DILLON BENDER**

The Manchester University men's tennis team dropped its Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference opener to visiting Rose-Hulman this afternoon by a final score of 9-0.

The Engineers took all doubles matches to begin the match. RHIT followed with 6-0, 6-0 victories at no. 2 and no. 4 singles.

Trevor Johnson, from Austin, won a pair of games in the

opening set of his no. 6 singles matchup against Rose's Arudra Krishnan. Austin Arnold, from Coatesville and South Putnam High School, and Connor Glenn, from Middlebury and Northridge High School, also won a game in the opening set of their singles matches.

Manchester (2-5, 0-1 HCAC) traveled to Anderson on Tuesday, March 23.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

# NCAA tourney madness hasn't disappointed

By **JIM LITKE**  
Associated Press

Considering how everything else has gone this past year, March was bound to be mad. So far, it hasn't disappointed.

The last perfect NCAA Tournament bracket was busted before the first round was over. The second round just wrapped with an even dozen upsets already in the books – a record for the opening 48 games and just one shy of the mark for the entire tournament – with all kinds of possibilities still out there.

“You gotta bring that fire,” said Gonzaga big man Drew Timme, whose team is the tournament's overall top seed. “Because all it takes is one good game and you can be out.”

Oklahoma, in fact, played a very good game against Timme's Bulldogs and still got crushed, 87-71. So did No. 10 Maryland, bounced by No. 2 Alabama 96-77, and fifth-seeded Colorado, sent packing 71-53 by No. 4 Florida State.

Ditto for the five other teams that lost Monday – by the lopsided average of 18 points.

Sixth-seeded USC beat No. 3 Kansas by 34, but failed to meet the NCAA definition of an upset: “defined as a win by a team seeded five spots lower than their opponent.” No. 7 Oregon's win over second-seeded Iowa qualified, even though it was by “only” 15. No. 1 seed Michigan finally wriggled free of LSU, 86-78, in the day's only really close game.

Seedings can seem off in any year, but never moreso than in this one. The pandemic wreaked havoc on nearly every team, but hit



Armando L. Sanchez / Chicago Tribune / TNS

Loyola knew it was in the tournament. It was assured of that after winning the Missouri Valley Conference tournament. But they celebrated like it was breaking news during a watch party with fans at Gentile Arena when the TBS telecast announced “Loyola-Chicago” was set to play Miami in the first round of the tournament in Dallas. Forward Aundre Jackson, a Texas native, called his mom from the stage he sat on with teammates to share the joy.

some harder than others, and at different times.

Kansas, for example, had one star, David McCormack, who cleared the COVID-19 protocol just hours before its first-round game, and another, Jalen Wilson, just a day before he came off the bench against USC. Widely considered the toughest league this past season, the Big Ten Conference got nine invites and is down to Michigan. West Coast teams, often overlooked and rarely overrated, may have finally benefitted from being underrated this time around.

Unbeaten Gonzaga was a lock to be the tourney's top seed, but the rest of the Left Coast contingent that made it to the Sweet 16 – USC (a No. 6), Oregon (7), UCLA (11) and Oregon State (12), all Pac-12 Conference members – were supposed to be in disarray. Suddenly, though, they look like ringers descending on the local country club for those annual

member-guest handicap golf tournaments.

Oregon gambled by playing up-tempo out of the gate and focusing its defense on every Hawkeye but Luka Garza, everybody's player of the year. Garza wound up with 36 points in the final game of a storied college career, but it was clear by half-time even he couldn't beat the Ducks by himself.

“It hit me all at once that this is the last time I'll put on this jersey,” Garza said, fighting back tears. “I feel bad I wasn't able to lead this team where it needs to go. ... It's something that's going to haunt me forever.”

For all the chaos unleashed in the first two rounds, Gonzaga still looks like the class of the field. The Bulldogs are balanced, deep, capable of playing fast or slow and have two of the best players in the game, Jalen Suggs and Corey Kispert. Most important, perhaps, they were among the best at handling the dis-

ruptions of a rocky season as it began, then progressed and seem even more comfortable in the midst of all the craziness swirling around the tournament now.

Much of the credit deservedly belongs to coach Mark Few, who has won just about everything but the national championship that would validate all those other achievements. The Bulldogs play Creighton next, in their sixth straight Sweet 16 appearance, on a roll of 32 straight wins dating to last season, but Few won't let his players get caught up looking too far ahead.

“We've been celebrating every one of these wins. We celebrated the other night. We celebrated this one,” he said after beating Oklahoma.

“If we're lucky enough to get another one, we're going to celebrate like crazy for that one. This tournament,” he concluded after the win against Oklahoma, “needs to be celebrated.”

# Women's tennis drops HCAC opener to RHIT on Saturday

By **DILLON BENDER**

The Manchester women's tennis dropped its Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference (HCAC) opener to Rose-Hulman 9-0 Saturday afternoon at the MU Tennis Courts.

Karly Eichenauer, from North Manchester and Manchester High School, battled in a hard-fought match-up at no. 1 singles against Rose-Hulman's Fanny-Jane Banda. Eichenauer won three games in the opening set and

four games in the second set before falling 6-3, 6-4.

Natalie Kotlin, from Lowell, Rebecca Porterfield-Winstead, from Durham, North Carolina, and Carolina Friends School, and Michayle Rasbaugh, from LaGrange and Lakeland High School, all won a game in the opening sets of their singles matches.

The Spartans (0-7, 0-1 HCAC) traveled to rival Anderson on Tuesday, March 23.

*Dillon Bender is the sports information director for Manchester University.*

# RHP Hendricks to start on opening day for Cubs

CHICAAGO (AP) — Chicago Cubs manager David Ross selected Kyle Hendricks to start on opening day last season, and it worked out quite well.

He sees no reason to make a change this year.

Ross announced Tuesday that Hendricks will get the ball when the Cubs begin the season against Pittsburgh on April 1 at Wrigley Field. The right-hander tossed a three-hitter in a 3-0 victory over Milwaukee on opening day last summer.

“I feel like we've got a lot of talent,” Ross said. “I feel like Kyle, his resume, his leadership, his poise, all that goes into being the opening-day starter, just the extra pomp and circumstance that goes with opening day, especially this coming year as well, every arrow points to Kyle.”

Ross said he wasn't ready to announce the order for the rest of his starting pitchers. Chicago also has Jake Arrieta and Zach Davies, and Trevor Williams, Alec Mills, Adbert Alzolay and Shelby Miller are in the mix for the last two spots. But there is no question about the leader of the rotation, especially after the Cubs traded Yu Darvish to San Diego in December.

The 31-year-old Hendricks, known for his precision, control and professor-like demeanor, is making his second opening-day start. He went 6-5 with a 2.88 ERA in 12 starts during the pandemic-shortened season, helping Chicago win the NL Central.

“I just try and be the same guy I've always been,” Hendricks said. “I want the guys to be able to trust what they're going to get out of me.”



# Teen confides in stepmom, but swears her to secrecy

**DEAR ABBY:** My beautiful 17-year-old stepdaughter, “Amelia,” recently became sexually active. She’s in a “serious” relationship with the boy she had sex with. They have been together for six months, and from what she’s told me, they both gave each other their virginity and protection was used. She has not disclosed this to her parents.

**Dear Abby**



My husband and Amelia are very close, but she and her mom recently had a falling-out. Amelia pledged me to secrecy, and I immediately scheduled her to see an OB/GYN to get her on birth control.

My question is, should I tell my husband? I feel awful not telling him, but she has told me she doesn’t want either of her parents to know. I’m grateful she comes to me for things like this, but eventually, it’s going to come out when my husband sees the explanation of benefits from the insurance.

Amelia’s mom and I have a solid relationship, and my husband and her mom also have a good one. I don’t want to keep secrets regarding their daughter, but I don’t want to betray my stepdaughter either. Please help. — Struggling Stepmom

**DEAR STEPMOM:** It isn’t necessary to betray your stepdaughter’s confidence to get her the help she needs. Go online to plannedparenthood.org, locate the nearest Planned Parenthood clinic and share that information with Amelia. The organization provides a wide range of low-cost services to women and men, including family planning, STD diagnosis and treatment, and birth control on a confidential basis. You should also encourage Amelia to discuss this with her parents. She is behaving responsibly in wanting to protect herself.

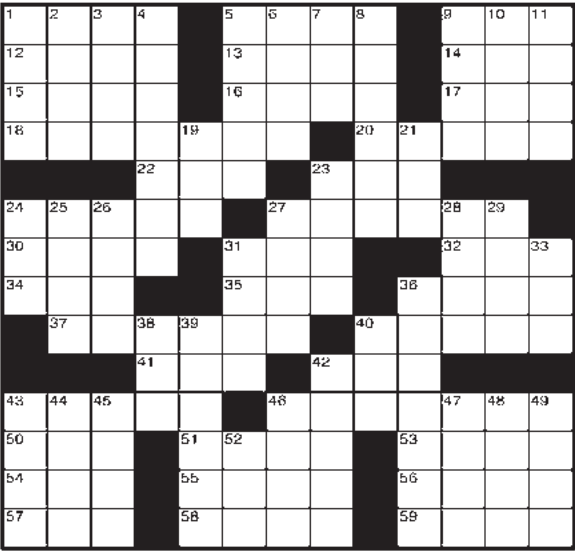
**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I have been married for decades, but 10 years ago she had, at the least, a texting affair with “Brad,” a longtime friend of her brother’s. Her brother, who knows about the affair, lives on a large tract of land owned by their father. Brad is there often to go hunting with her brother. My wife and I used to visit it frequently, but now there is some concern that Brad might be there and we’ll have a conflict, so we don’t go as much. The affair was very upsetting to me, but my wife insisted we keep it quiet so her brother could continue his friendship with Brad. Over the years, she has occasionally had online contact with Brad and even told him that she appreciated him talking with our son because our son has few friends. But now our son, who knows nothing about the affair or how bad it hurt me, has become friendly with Brad. It is very difficult hearing him talk about things they do together. Should we tell our son about the affair? — Still Hurt In Texas

**DEAR STILL HURT:** Tempting as it may be to “out” your wife to your son, keep that information to yourself. I question the wisdom of Brad having been encouraged to cultivate a relationship with your son since this friendship is the fruit of that decision. Because you prefer not to hear what your son and Brad are doing, the next time it comes up, change the subject. He may or may not catch on and question you about the reason, but if he does, all you need to say is you’d rather not discuss it.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- 1 Bridle part
- 5 Drop heavily
- 9 Sports VIP
- 12 Wagon part
- 13 Leading man
- 14 Stadium cry
- 15 High notes
- 16 Affirm
- 17 Faultfinder
- 18 Delight
- 20 Ambergris source
- 22 Rage
- 23 Kind of story
- 24 Voice of Elmer Fudd
- 27 Say differently
- 30 Sp. or Eng.
- 31 Mauna —
- 32 Objective
- 34 Can
- 35 Hankering
- 36 Cry of acclaim
- 37 Slow down
- 40 Hot tub material
- 41 Pollution org.
- 42 Plant sci.
- 43 OE2, e.g.
- 46 Sideways
- 50 Get older
- 51 Literary work
- 53 Went by bike
- 54 Ostrich look-alike
- 55 Cairo’s river
- 56 Strong — — ox
- 57 Easel display
- 58 Tater
- 59 Verne skipper
- DOWN
- 1 Speedway competition
- 2 Business VIP
- 3 Lands in la mer
- 4 Springtime activity
- 5 Temporary state
- 6 Tax
- 7 Gold, in Peru
- 8 Meeting
- 9 Chatty pet
- 10 Tender cutlets
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- 19 Portion of a circle
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- 23 John and Yoko’s son
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- 40 Barracks bed
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- 43 The Dalai —
- 44 Composer —
- 45 Organized
- 46 Humdinger
- 47 Increased, as prices
- 48 Bede or Sandler
- 49 Comedian Jay
- 52 Apple seed



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## SUDOKU

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| DIFFICULTY RATING: ☆☆☆☆☆ |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1                        |   |   |   |   | 9 |   | 2 |   |
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| 6                        |   |   |   | 9 |   |   | 3 |   |
| 7                        |   |   | 5 | 3 | 8 |   | 9 | 1 |
|                          | 3 |   | 6 |   |   |   |   | 5 |

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How to play: Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9.

|                   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PREVIOUS SOLUTION |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
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| 7                 | 1 | 6 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 4 |
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| 1                 | 8 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 5 | 6 |
| 3                 | 5 | 4 | 8 | 6 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 |
| 6                 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 8 |
| 4                 | 3 | 1 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 8 | 6 | 9 |
| 2                 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 5 | 7 | 1 |
| 9                 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 6 | 4 | 2 | 3 |

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles. One letter to each square. To form four ordinary words.

FLICF

LENTK

BEELMM

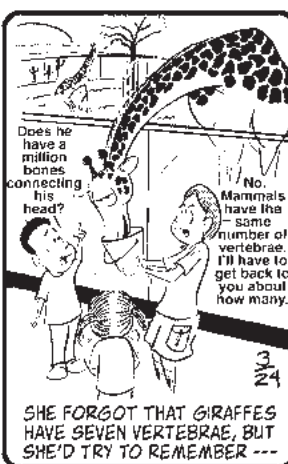
DSUNED

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Answer “ ”

Saturday’s

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



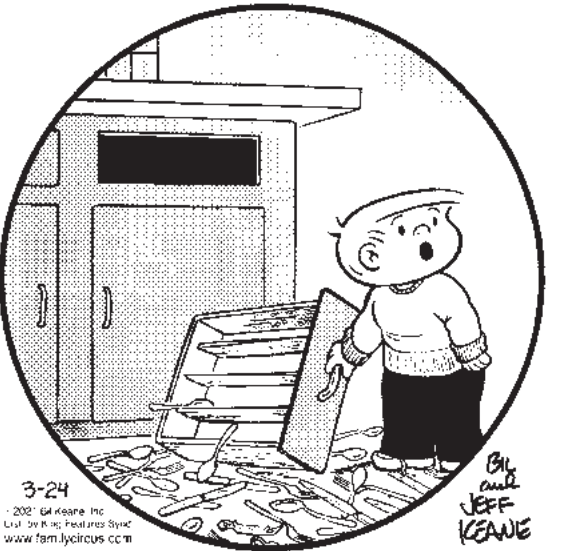
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Jumbles: GROWL THUMP EYEFUL ABOUND Answer: The excavation for their new home’s foundation was done, and they liked it — A “HOLE” LOT

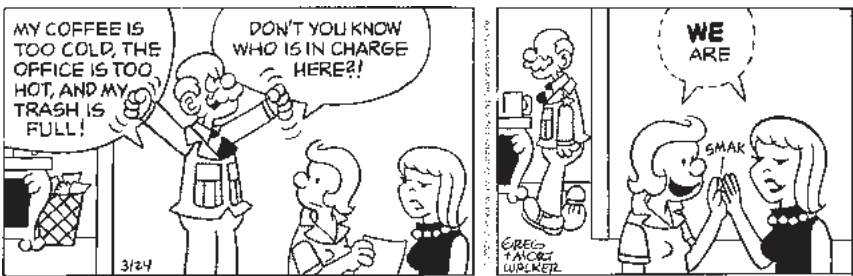
## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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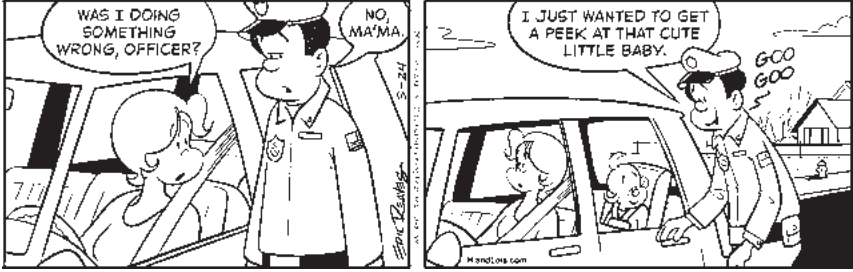
## BEEBLE BAILEY



## BLONDIE



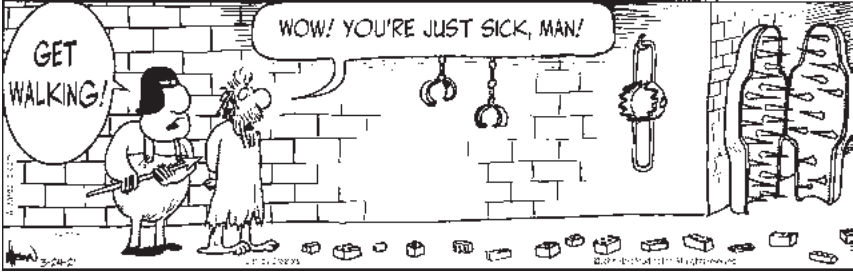
## HI & LOIS



## BC



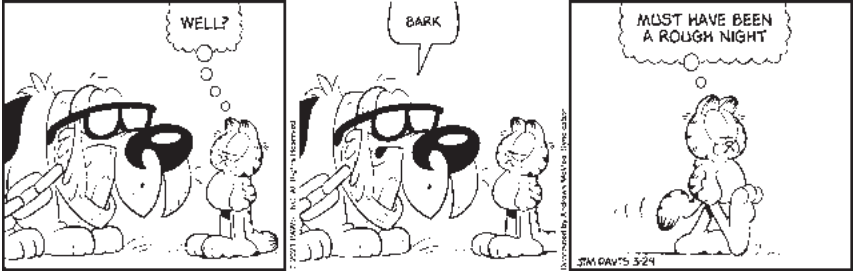
## WIZARD OF ID



## DILBERT



## GARFIELD



## FORT KNOX



## PICKLES



## Most profound pardon is what Jesus Christ has offered to humanity – a pardon of sin

From the writings of the Rev. Billy Graham

**Q:** Recently a lot of pardons have been given to prisoners. How can one person be allowed to simply excuse someone else’s behavior? — F.P.

**Billy Graham**  
My Answer



**A:** History reveals that pardons have been given throughout time, and there are those who have actually refused a pardon. From the records of the U.S. Supreme Court comes such a story of defiance. In 1829, a man named Wilson was indicted for robbing the mail and endangering the life of a government mail carrier. Wilson was tried and sentenced to death. But President Andrew Jackson issued him a pardon. The man refused it and chose death by hanging rather than receive forgiveness.

The most profound pardon is what Jesus Christ has offered to humanity — a pardon of sin. Many refuse Him but Jesus stands ready to forgive and has paid the penalty for man’s crimes against Him. The Bible declares that the whole world is a prisoner of sin (see Galatians 3:22). In the midst of all our sinning, though, God is willing to forgive us, and give us a new power to overcome that sin.

Chuck Colson, a former prisoner himself, had a tremendous ministry reaching pris-

oners with the saving Gospel of Jesus Christ. Many people will be in Heaven whose lives have been transformed because of the message that penetrated hardened hearts. When inmates find themselves alone in their cells, the Gospel message can still continue to work in the human heart.

God’s great rescue mission brings freedom to those imprisoned, whether inside or outside prison bars. “Preach the gospel to the poor... [and] proclaim liberty to the captives” (Luke 4:18).

## CELEBRITY CIPHER

by Luis Campos

Celebrity Cipher cryptograms are created from quotations of famous people, past and present. Each letter in the cipher stands for another.

“ N ’ P W O W P W K Z W W O F H B K B P W .  
N Y D W V F H X Y F D X T H H R F H K W B V  
D T B U W D E W B K W , O H F F H G B U W H Y F N O  
F T W E B K U . ” — C W D D N X B X T B D F B N O

Previous Solution: “Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.” — Martin Luther

TODAY’S CLUE: W s i n b o o



# Opinion

## SPEAK UP

How to contact your legislators:

**U.S. Sen. Todd Young, R-Ind.**  
B33 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
1-202-224-5623  
http://young.senate.gov/contact

**U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, R-Ind.**  
B85 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
202-224-4814  
http://braun.senate.gov/

**U.S. Rep. Jackie Walorski, R-District 2**  
419 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
202-225-3915

**State Sen. Andy Zay, R-District 17**  
Indiana Senate  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9467  
Senator.Zay@iga.in.gov

**State Rep. Craig Snow, R-District 18**  
Indiana House  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
1-800-382-9841  
h18@in.gov

To email any Indiana lawmaker, go to this website: [www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl](http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl)

## LETTERS GUIDELINES

The Wabash Plain Dealer encourages your letters to the editor forum, which is designed to be a forum for exchange of ideas between readers about issues of community importance.

Please sign your letter. Your name will be used with the letter that is published in the Plain Dealer. Your letter will be returned if it is your desire to remain anonymous.

Since we may want to write or call you to verify the letter, we ask that you include your address and telephone number. All our letters to the editor are published in the interest of fair play, so we trust our letter writers will refrain from personal attacks on other persons or groups.

A letter should be less than two pages long, preferably of double-spaced typing.

In order to give everyone an opportunity to participate in this exchange of ideas, please try to limit your letters to one per month per household.

To submit a letter, please write the Wabash Plain Dealer at 99 W. Canal St., Wabash, IN 46992.

Letters also may be hand-delivered to the newspaper office, 99 W. Canal St. The office is open 9-11:30 a.m. and 1-4 p.m. Monday through Friday. If you should deliver a letter during non-business hours, a drop slot is located to the left of the front door. Letters may be faxed to 260-563-0816, or email them to [news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com) with "Letters to the Editor" in the subject line.

## DAILY SCRIPTURE

"Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! ... For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen."  
— Romans 11:33-36

## Progress on vaccinations illustrates benefit of leadership, American grit

Americans have an extraordinary ability to overcome a crisis, especially when they're led by capable people.

Our fortitude and ingenuity were on full display Friday with the report that more than 115 million COVID-19 vaccinations had been administered to Americans.

What a remarkable accomplishment. Just 58 days after President Joe Biden took office, the nation blew past the goal that Biden set Dec. 8 to distribute 100 million vaccines in the first 100 days of his administration.

That objective seemed outrageous when Biden announced it, given that the United States had yet to authorize a single vaccine at that time. The approval came three days later, and the first Pfizer-BioNTech shot was administered Dec. 14. Now, in just a little over three months, more than 75 million Americans have received at least one shot of the three authorized vaccines now in distribution, and 41 million are considered fully vaccinated. We're racing along at an average of 2.2 million doses per day.

This is what happens when competent leaders occupy the government. America is seeing the night-and-day difference between leadership that focuses on working for the people as opposed to working solely in the interests of a puffed-up, would-be autocrat. We're seeing how much we can accomplish under an administration that understands how government works and knows it can be used for good, versus one

with a single-minded mission to destroy it.

It's a refreshing reminder of what America can accomplish when the country sets its mind to a task.

We can only wish such competent governance had been in place before 400,000 Americans died under the amateur hate machine masquerading as leadership last year.

Now, though, the nation is experiencing the results of voters sweeping Democrats into office in November. Our post-pandemic recovery is underway, we can see light at the end of the tunnel and normal life is on the horizon.

In Nevada, where Gov. Steve Sisolak announced Thursday that the state had hit the 1 million-dose level in vaccinations, we've gone from 25 percent capacity to 50 percent at most businesses in recent weeks and started to return children to school while maintaining a solid handle on our infection rate.

Meanwhile, Las Vegas received some very promising news last week with the announcement that the massive World of Concrete trade show had been approved for in-person operations in June, signaling the return of our critical convention business, if current trends continue.

Another encouraging sign popped up recently when Google Trends reported a huge upswing in searches by Americans for "fully vaccinated travel," with Las Vegas listed as one of the top destinations in those searches.

Think about where we'd be now if the November election had gone differently. Since

the Republican philosophy is to not govern at all, while also rejecting science and undercutting government experts, there's no question our progress would have been weaker and our situation would be darker.

Now, though, it's time for Americans to finish this job by getting vaccinated and sticking with the precautions that remain in place — mask-wearing, hand sanitizing, social distancing, etc.

Challenges remain, in no small part because of the destructive attitudes of GOP extremists in public leadership and the media. That's evidenced in polls showing a large percentage of white male Republicans saying they'll shun the vaccine (for political reasons and over manufactured concerns about the safety of the shots), and false narratives that lockdowns and capacity limits haven't worked and should be completely discontinued.

Let's be abundantly clear: The vaccinations are safe and effective, and capacity limitations have been proven to work well when people comply with them.

In the 2020 election, Americans rebuked the politics of chaos and cruelty, and instead signaled a desire to return to methodical, competent and compassionate leadership.

Friday's vaccination milestone was a direct result of that change. It's a reminder that dedicated government focused on making life better for all Americans is what this country needs and deserves.

— *This editorial was first published in the Las Vegas Sun.*

## A talented team makes all the difference

I am still asked many times about how our team is doing in light of COVID-19. Pre-March 2020 we had just finished the successful year of 2019. Our food distribution numbers were trending upward compared to 2018 by over 13 percent. Our new

**Tim Kean**



our team was moving forward together to grow the impact in support of struggling families. I felt we were in a good place. If you relate it to physical activity and personal health, we were in decent condition and had a reasonable diet.

When the shutdown occurred and the number of out-of-work people grew by the tens of thousands, we were catapulted into a new reality. We immediately had to pivot into a new mindset that was trying to visualize how to double, triple or quadruple what we had been doing and we had a week or less to figure it out. If you think you are in pretty good physical condition, then you arrive at "boot camp" only to find out you're not as fit as you once thought. We experienced some sore muscles, headaches and raised tension levels. We were experiencing growing pains, new routines and new skill sets. But like many great teams who face challenges, obstacles and roadblocks, this team began to stretch, push and pull together. We began to gain strength and endurance. We began to grow very rapidly and added some great new team members that were recruited for some additional support.

By the end of 2020 we were clearly on a different level of engagement with all our 8-county service area. This also allowed us to take additional steps in programming to target small communities that

rarely have access to resources like the county seats have available. Our team was evolving into a well-oiled machine. They were learning some complicated dance steps without injuring themselves or other team members. Yes, there's an occasional stubbed toe, but we try to practice giving lots of grace. Several new people are making their presence felt in a good way by helping drive impact with the community resources we have been blessed to receive.

Today, this great team is even more capable than it was three months ago. The need for service in all the communities is still as high as it was 6 months ago and we anticipate it to remain high for the rest of 2021. Fewer people are sick, but the number of people out of work is staggering. The recession of 2008 took many years of recovery before there was much to celebrate. I suspect some strong similarities this time around as well.

Looking forward, we have some new plans to roll out, but not until around mid-summer. Our Impact team has all the areas of our current programming growing and has expansion plans before the end of the year. They are being well supported by a strong Warehouse team and an equally talented Philanthropy team. I feel blessed to be part of our Leadership team that is helping chart our course. This team has more than just a strong, well-exercised approach to their workweek, they have determination and grit. A talented team takes time to assemble and makes all the difference when the only option is to get it done correctly, completely and on time.

*Tim Kean is the President and CEO of Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central Indiana, a network of 95-member agencies, programs, 15 Senior sites and 35 schools provide relationship building and food assistance to more than 67,000 low-income people facing daily instability in Blackford, Delaware, Grant, Henry, Jay, Madison, Randolph and Wabash counties.*



## Let's be honest about the COVID relief bill

On March 12, President Biden signed into law another stimulus bill to address the enormous damage done to our economy through COVID-19. There are principled arguments for and against most details of the \$1.9 trillion bill. I feel Congress could've passed a much smaller bill, maybe half the size, and put in place an automatic second payment should the economy remain at risk through mid-summer. I'd have liked to see fewer regulations tied to spending and I'd have directed a greater share of money to poorer households, among many other concerns.

I'm not alone in having these pretty reasonable objections. However, anyone arguing for a smaller stimulus must admit that one lesson of the Great Recession is the asymmetry of risk. Too little stimulus is far worse than too much. Moreover, at a time when the U.S. Treasury can borrow at a negative real interest rate, too much stimulus is a fairly low-risk affair.

But, this is not a column about the stimulus, or good faith arguments about fiscal policy. Thankfully, many lawmakers are offering substantive criticisms of the bill. Still many are not, and I write today to call out the worst of the bad faith arguments. The most noxious version of anti-stimulus argument is some version of "the economy is recovering well, and this stimulus is nothing more than a bailout of badly run states."

Though many of us might feel as if this recession is over, it is not. Among the bottom third of earners, employment is now down 23 percent since

January 2020. Fully one out of every three American families is facing labor market conditions that took almost three years, from October 1929 to Summer 1933, to achieve. For many American households, employment options are really no different than in the Great Depression.

At the rate of employment growth over the past quarter, we won't hit 2019 employment levels until the summer of 2027. Worse still, this final statistic uses Labor Department estimates of unemployment, which likely understate labor market distress by 50 percent. Even after two historically large stimulus bills and record monetary policy easing, our economy appears several years away from full recovery.

Far worse than downplaying the generational damage of the COVID downturn is claiming that this stimulus somehow bails out a few, fiscally reckless states. That is a lie. Payments will mostly be directed to poorer states, without regard to state budget shortfalls. Indiana is a poor state.

In the first round of stimulus, the CARES Act, Indiana residents received some \$8.4 billion, along with another \$2.6 billion to state and city governments. Indiana's elected leaders pride themselves on their fiscal probity. And, if the goal is solely a balanced budget and large reserve, they are right in doing so. But, without the CARES Act and later stimulus, Indiana would've faced its worst budget crisis in state history.

Between lost revenues and extra costs, the 2020 stimulus payments plugged a budget shortfall of close to \$3.5 billion. That's more than a billion dollars higher than our Rainy Day funds balance last January. This does not account for huge tax losses

to local government. The stimulus passed during the Trump Administration kept Indiana from financial catastrophe.

Because of these stimulus payments, the dire need for fiscal relief to state and local governments has eased. What hasn't changed is who will pay disproportionately for this new stimulus.

Residents of every state pay federal taxes, and in return federal tax dollars flow back to each state. But, only eight states pay more federal taxes than they receive back in payments. For every dollar Indiana taxpayers send to the federal government, we get \$1.30 back. We are a top beneficiary of federal government largesse. Moreover, it is useful to compare ourselves to those eight 'donor' states who pay more than they receive in federal taxes.

Among those states, there are not only heavy federal tax payments, but these states tax themselves far more than do Hoosiers. While Indiana collects only \$3,872 per person in taxes each year, the eleven 'contributor states' collect an average of \$6,112 per person. These states also average population growth over the last decade of 6.6 percent, compared to Indiana's 4.2 percent. These 'donor' states spend, on average, 43 percent more per K-12 student than does Indiana. As a result, they enjoy a much better educational attainment, and the typical resident earns 11 percent more per person than do Hoosiers.

Residents of these 'donor' states receive back from federal coffers \$783 per person less than they paid in taxes last year. Folks from Indiana received a whopping \$2,445 per person more in federal spending than they paid in. With the COVID stimulus, Indiana

slid into the eighth most federally subsidized state in the union, stuck right between Missouri and Alabama. We are now ranked well ahead of Mississippi in the amount of federal support we receive.

It is simply untrue that these COVID relief or stimulus bills are bail-outs to irresponsible state governments. They are mostly wealth transfers from more affluent Americans to poorer ones. There's no reason to feel sorry for anyone who is affluent enough to miss the stimulus payment. But, we must keep in mind that it is disproportionately they who will pay for it.

That Indiana ranks eighth among these poorer states is cause for reflection. Hoosier leaders are eager to claim credit for economic success. So, basic integrity requires accepting responsibility for our declining prospects as well. We've now slipped into the bottom of the pack, and are heavily reliant upon the goodwill and largesse of more affluent citizens around the nation.

Hoosiers would be far better off to acknowledge these unpleasant facts about ourselves and learn a few lessons from those states who've been more economically successful. We also need to be honest about what the COVID stimulus does, and does not do. Just a few legislators peddling bad faith criticisms of this legislation are enough to crowd out good faith disagreements. Today our Republic needs more principled, good faith disagreements.

*Michael J. Hicks, PhD, is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University.*







# Officials: Gun in supermarket shooting bought 6 days earlier

By **PATTY NIEBERG,**  
**THOMAS PEIPERT**  
and **COLLEEN SLEVIN**  
Associated Press

BOULDER, Colo. — The suspect accused of opening fire inside a crowded Colorado supermarket was a 21-year-old man who purchased an assault weapon less than a week earlier, authorities said Tuesday, a day after the attack that killed 10 people, including a police officer.

Ahmad Al Aliwi Alissa bought the weapon on March 16, just six days before the attack at a King Soopers store in Boulder, according to an arrest affidavit. It was not immediately known where the gun was purchased.

Alissa, who is from the Denver suburb of Arvada, was booked into the county jail Tuesday on murder charges after being treated at a hospital.

Investigators have not established a motive, but they believe Alissa was the only shooter, Boulder County District Attorney Michael Dougherty said.

A law enforcement official briefed on the shooting said the suspect's family told investigators they believed Alissa was suffering some type of mental illness, including delusions. Relatives described times when Alissa told them people were following or chasing him, which they said may have contributed to the violence, the official said. The official was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke to AP on condition of anonymity.

The attack was the nation's deadliest mass shooting since a 2019 assault on a Walmart in El Paso, Texas, where a gunman killed 22 people in a rampage that police said targeted Mexicans.

In Washington, President Joe Biden called on Congress to tighten the nation's gun laws.

"Ten lives have been lost, and more families have been shattered by gun violence in the state of Colorado," Biden said at the White House.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer vowed to bring forward two House-passed bills to require expanded background checks for gun buyers. Biden supports the measures, but they face a tougher route to passage in a closely divided Senate with a slim Democratic majority.

The shooting came 10 days after a judge blocked a ban on assault rifles passed by the city of Boulder in 2018. That ordinance and another banning large-capacity magazines came after the 2018 mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 people dead.

A lawsuit challenging the bans was filed quickly, backed by the National Rifle Association. The judge struck down the ordinance under a Colorado law that blocks cities from making their own rules about guns.

Supermarket employees told investigators that Alissa shot an elderly man multiple times outside the Boulder grocery store before going inside, according to the affidavit. Another person was found shot in a vehicle next to a car registered to the suspect's brother.



Chet Strange / Getty Images / TNS

Healthcare workers walk out of a King Sooper's Grocery store after a gunman opened fire Monday in Boulder, Colo.

## How states are seeking to loosen controls on guns

By **GEOFF MULVIHILL**  
Associated Press

Mass shootings in Georgia and Colorado that left at least 18 people dead since last week are reigniting calls from gun control advocates for tighter restrictions on buying firearms and ammunition. But with Democrats in control of the federal government, gun rights advocates have been persuading Republican-run state legislatures to go the other way, making it easier to obtain and carry guns.

How are the politics of gun legislation playing out in the United States this year? Here's the breakdown.

### Prospects mixed for legislation

This month, the Democrat-controlled U.S. House of Representatives adopted measures to expand background checks to all gun purchases and expand the time to vet people flagged in a nationwide background check system.

But to pass in the Senate, the support of every Democrat would be needed. And that's not a sure thing.

States led by Democrats are pushing to expand some gun control laws.

Maryland lawmakers overrode a veto from Republican Gov. Larry Hogan on a bill that requires background checks for all sales and transfers of rifles and shotguns. Previously, the checks were required only for sales of handguns and long guns by licensed firearms dealers.

In Washington state, a ban on high-capacity magazines has stalled, but a measure to ban carrying weapons openly at the state Capitol or during permitted demonstrations has cleared one house of the Legislature and is awaiting a vote in the other.

California lawmakers are expected

to require individual identifiers on all bullet casings to include weapons used by law enforcement. Proponents say the pending legislation is another attempt to help investigate shootings by police as well as make it easier to solve crimes. Critics say it's based on unworkable technology.

At least five states also have bills that would require or expand waiting periods before the purchase of a gun.

### Nullifying federal laws, pre-empting local ones

Lawmakers in at least a dozen states have introduced legislation that would prohibit local police officers from enforcing any federal gun-control laws that could be passed by congressional Democrats and signed by President Joe Biden. Some of the bills would make officers who do so subject to lawsuits or even criminal charges.

It's not clear if those laws would withstand legal challenges. Courts struck down nullification laws passed in GOP-controlled states during former President Barack Obama's tenure.

Some states also are considering bans on future laws or local ordinances that would restrict gun rights. In New Hampshire, Republican lawmakers are pushing a state constitutional amendment that would block the Legislature from restricting gun rights. The amendment ultimately would need voter approval.

Another bill would block local governments from restricting firearms.

### Allowing guns in more places

Several states are expanding where people can take their guns.

Most adults over 21 would be allowed to carry firearms — either con-

cealed or in the open — without a permit under a measure advanced by the state Senate in Tennessee this month.

Most states require background checks and firearm safety training for people who want to be allowed to carry weapons in public. But 15 states already have laws allowing permitless carry for concealed guns. Nine states are considering measures to allow or expand the practice. One was sent Monday to Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, a Republican, for her signature.

In Montana, Gov. Greg Gianforte, the first Republican to hold the job in 16 years, signed a bill that relaxes gun restrictions. It allows concealed firearms to be carried in most places without a permit and expands the list of places where guns can be carried to include university campuses and the state Capitol. Similar measures are being pushed in states that include Oklahoma and West Virginia.

### 'Stand your ground' gaining traction

In January, Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine, a Republican, signed a so-called "Stand Your Ground" bill that eliminates an individual's duty to retreat before using force.

DeWine acted despite his ongoing criticism of GOP lawmakers for ignoring his own legislation seeking to toughen background checks and boosting penalties for felons committing new crimes with guns. The governor proposed those measures following a 2019 mass shooting in Dayton.

A similar "Stand Your Ground" measure has been approved by the South Dakota Legislature and is awaiting Republican Gov. Kristi Noem's signature.

## Report: Extremist groups thrive on Facebook

By **BARBARA ORTUTAY**  
AP Technology Writer

A new outside report found that Facebook has allowed groups — many tied to QAnon, boogaloo and militia movements — to glorify violence during the 2020 election and in the weeks leading up to the deadly riots on the U.S. Capitol in January.

Avaaz, a nonprofit advocacy group that says it seeks to protect democracies from misinformation, identified 267 pages and groups on Facebook that it says spread violence-glorifying material in the heat of the 2020 election to a combined following of 32 million users.

More than two-thirds of the groups and pages had names that aligned with several domestic extremist movements, the report found. The first, boogaloo, promotes a second U.S. civil war and the breakdown of modern society. The second is the QAnon conspiracy, which claims that Donald Trump is waging a secret battle against the "deep state" and a sect of powerful Satan-worshipping pedophiles who dominate Hollywood, big business, the media and government. The rest are various anti-government militias. All have been largely banned from Facebook since 2020.

But despite what Avaaz called "clear violations" of Facebook's policies, it found that 119 of these pages and groups were still active on the platform as of Feb. 24 and had just under 27 million followers. Facebook said late Monday that of the 119 that Avaaz found, only 18 "actually violated" Facebook's policies. Four had already been removed before Monday and Facebook has now taken down the remaining 14.

Facebook acknowledged that its policy enforcement "isn't perfect," but said the report distorts its work against violent extremism and misinformation.

The company said in a statement that it has done more than any other internet company to stanch the flow of harmful material, citing its bans of "nearly 900 militarized social movements" and the removal of tens of thousands of QAnon pages, groups, and accounts. It added that it is always improving its efforts against misinformation.

On Thursday, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg, Twitter CEO Jack Dorsey and Alphabet CEO Sundar Pichai are slated to testify before Congress about extremism and misinformation on their platforms.

Facebook has tightened its rules against violence, hate and misinformation in the past year. In October, it banned QAnon groups across its platform. Before that, it would remove them only if they expressly supported violence. It has also banned extremist and militia movements and boogaloo groups with varying degrees of success.

For instance, while Facebook banned "Stop the Steal" groups from its platform, Avaaz — like The Associated Press — found that such groups and the #stopthesteal hashtag remained active on the platform after the purge.

## Part of Wright brothers' first airplane on NASA's Mars chopper

By **MARCIA DUNN**  
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — A piece of the Wright brothers' first airplane is on Mars.

NASA's experimental Martian helicopter holds a small swatch of fabric from the 1903 Wright Flyer, the space agency revealed Tuesday. The helicopter, named Ingenuity, hitched a ride to the red planet with the Perseverance rover, arriving last month.

Ingenuity will attempt the first powered, controlled flight on another planet no sooner than April 8. It will mark a "Wright brothers' moment," noted Bobby Braun, director for planetary science at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The Carillon Historical Park in Dayton, Ohio, the Wrights' hometown, donated the postage-size piece of muslin from the plane's bottom left wing, at NASA's request.

The swatch made the 300 million-mile journey to Mars with the blessing of the Wright brothers' great-grandniece and great-grandnephew, said park curator Steve Lucht.

"Wilbur and Orville Wright would be pleased to know that a little piece of their 1903 Wright Flyer I, the machine that launched the Space Age by barely one quarter of a mile, is going to soar into history again on Mars!" Amanda Wright

Lane and Stephen Wright said in a statement provided by the park.

Orville Wright was on board for the world's first powered, controlled flight on Dec. 17, 1903, at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina. The brothers took turns, making four flights that day.

A fragment of Wright Flyer wood and fabric flew to the moon with Apollo 11's Neil Armstrong in 1969. A swatch also accompanied John Glenn into orbit aboard

space shuttle Discovery in 1998. Both astronauts were from Ohio.

NASA's 4-pound helicopter will attempt to rise 10 feet into the extremely thin Martian air on its first hop. Up to five increasingly higher and longer flights are planned over the course of a month.

The material is taped to a cable beneath the helicopter's solar panel, which is perched on top like a graduate's mortarboard.

For now, Ingenuity remains



TRAIL

From page A1

Becker said the Wabash River Trail project was the only application they had received from either Wabash County or the Salamonie Lake area in either the first or second rounds of funding.

Next Level Trails is the largest infusion of trail funding in state history, said Holcomb’s press secretary Rachel Hoffmeyer. The \$90 million grant program is divided into two components: a \$70 million fund for regional projects and a \$20 million fund for local projects. A total of \$30 million was available for the second round, \$25 million for regional projects and \$5 mil-

lion for local projects.

DNR received second-round applications for 62 projects in 36 counties, requesting a total of more than \$93 million for more than 158 proposed miles of hiking, biking and riding trails. This total included 20 new applications and 42 returning applications from the first round. The DNR reviewed the applications for eligibility, and a multi-agency committee evaluated the proposals based on the Next Level Trails program objectives.

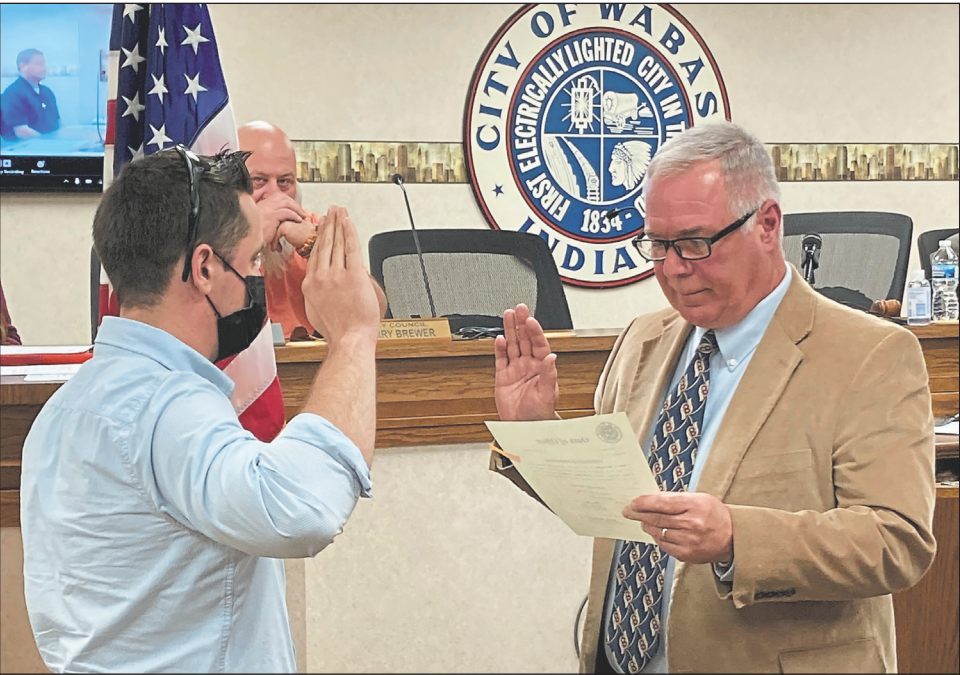
In addition to the \$29.6 million awarded through Next Level Trails, the 18 second-round grant recipients contributed \$21.9 million in matching value, resulting in a \$51.5 million total investment in trails. The program requires

a minimum 20 percent project match, which can include monetary contributions, land value, and in-kind donations of materials and labor.

During the televised press conference, Holcomb and the DNR also announced details of the third round of Next Level Trails. A total of \$35 million will be available, including \$25 million for regional projects and \$10 million for local projects. Applications will be accepted starting Nov. 1 and are due to the DNR by Dec. 1. DNR will announce details for an applicant workshop webinar later this year.

For more information, visit on.IN.gov/nextleveltrails.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.*



Provided photo

At Large Councilman John Burnsworth administers the oath because Mayor Scott Long was unavailable.

SWORN IN

From page A1

Monroe, who took the oath from Mayor Scott Long on Jan. 1 at the WPD headquarters. From June to July 2020, the WPD began accepting applications for that probationary police officer position. However, that wasn’t the WPD’s first try at hiring for the job. Benson said their original attempt to fill the position was disrupted due to the current pandemic. Benson said that the opening

was from another officer who resigned several months ago.

“However, we had to postpone the hiring process due to COVID-19,” said Benson.

Benson said the benefits package includes a probationary salary of \$49,319; career progression incentive pay, longevity and promotional opportunities through the rank structure; take-home car after two years residing within Wabash city limits, comprehensive medical, dental and eye insurance; life insurance; and paid vacation and sick leave. Benson said

under Indiana Code, applicants may not be appointed as a member of the WPD after the person has reached 40 years of age. Benson said under the nepotism clause of Indiana Code 36-1-20.2, a person may not be appointed as a member of the WPD who is related to any officer of the department. Benson said applicants must meet the residency requirements of Indiana Code 36-8-4-2.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com.*

PULSE

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org, [classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182](https://www.classy.org/campaign/hunger-action-month/c299182) or <https://www.givepulse.com/group/203410>.

Wabash Art Guild Members’ Art Show returns for 2021

The 61st annual Wabash Art Guild 2021 Members’ Art Show will be on display from Wednesday, March 24 through Sunday, April 25 at the Clark Gallery at the Honeywell Center, 275 W. Market St. There will be free admission available for the Clark Gallery during these dates from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays through Fridays. The group is also interested in inviting new members who would like to contribute to their works. For more information, call 260-563-7690.

Local landmark looks to be added to historic register

The nomination of the 13-24 Drive-In Movie Theater to the National Register of Historic Places will be considered at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 14 at the City Hall Assembly Room, 130 Penn St., Westfield.

Animal Shelter to pair readers with dogs, cats

The local Literacy for Companionship program will be held on the third Thursday of each month, with the next one scheduled for April 15 at the Wabash County Animal Shelter, 810 Manchester Ave. The time will be split into 30-minute shifts from 4 to 6 p.m., with four children scheduled per session. There is no cost for the program and the parents or guardians will be with the children at all times. For more information, call 260-563-3511.

WACT plans spring comedy

Performances of “Play On!” by Rick Abbot and directed

by Brett Robinson have been scheduled for the weekend of Friday, April 30 through Sunday, May 2 at Southwood Jr.-Sr. High School, 564 Indiana 124. For more information, email [brett.a.robinson1@outlook.com](mailto:brett.a.robinson1@outlook.com).

Local clean-up days announced

Mayor Scott Long said the city was working in conjunction with the Wabash County Solid Waste Management District’s annual Spring Tox-Away Day. The city will offer curbside spring cleanup from Monday, May 3 through Friday, May 7. Piles for pickup should be no larger than 4 feet by 8 feet for collection by the Street Department personnel. Wabash’s Tox-Away Day would be set from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 8, and that North Manchester’s would be set from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 15. The gates will close “promptly” at 1 p.m. on both days.

Grow Wabash County hosting Process Communication workshop

Registration is now open for Grow Wabash County’s Process Communication Model (PCM) workshop scheduled for Monday, May 3 through Wednesday, May 5, at the Grow Wabash County office. Tuition for the workshop will be \$600. The tuition fee will cover the participant’s course fees, an in-depth personalized PCM profile, and snacks and meals throughout the workshop. Those interested or representatives for their companies can do so at [www.growwabashcounty.com/pcmworkshop](http://www.growwabashcounty.com/pcmworkshop) or by contacting Grow Wabash County by email [info@growwabashcounty.com](mailto:info@growwabashcounty.com) or by phone at 260-563-5258.

Indiana 15 lane closures to last through mid-summer

Alternating lane closures are planned for Indiana 15. The work is happening between Indiana 13 and Wedcor Ave-

nue. Widths will be restricted to 13 feet during the project and that loads wider than 13 feet should seek an alternate route using the nearest numbered state, U.S. or interstate routes. The work is scheduled to wrap up by mid-summer.

COVID-19 testing continues at Parkview Wabash

OptumServe will administer free COVID-19 testing from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays at Parkview Wabash Hospital “on an on-going basis.” Testing will take place at 8 John Kissinger Drive in the first-floor conference room of the Medical Office Building (MOB) adjoining Parkview Wabash Hospital. Testing site patrons should not use the MOB entrance or enter through the hospital, but instead, enter and exit through the designated entrance between the two buildings. Signage will mark the appropriate entrance, which is within a few steps of the conference room and testing site.

DivorceCare meets Tuesdays

DivorceCare, a 13-week DVD series sponsored by Wabash Friends Counseling Center, features some of the nation’s foremost Christian experts on topics concerning divorce and recovery, according to group leader Janet Quillen. The support group meets at 6:30 p.m. every Tuesday in the Conference Room in the Wabash Friends Counseling Center, 3563 South State Road 13. Wearing a mask is required when entering. Quillen and members of the group meet for dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Subway, 1812 S. Wabash St., on State Road 15. For more information, call 260-563-8453, 877-350-1658, email [office@wabashfriends.org](mailto:office@wabashfriends.org), call 260-571-5235 or visit [www.divorcecare.org](http://www.divorcecare.org).

*Editor’s note: If you have an upcoming event to submit, please send it by email to [news@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:news@wabashplaindealer.com) no later than five days before the event itself.*

VACCINE

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With the expansion to Hoosiers age 40 and older, they join healthcare workers, long-term care residents, first responders who are regularly called to the scene of an emergency to render medical assistance and educators and school support staff through grade 12 in being eligible to receive a COVID-19 vaccine.

The ISDH will host three vaccination clinics from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. through Thursday at the following locations:

■ Elkhart Housing Authority, 1396 Benham Ave., Elkhart.

■ River City Church Community Center, 2842 Old U.S. 231, Lafayette.

■ Floyd County Lazy River Park, 224 W. Daisy Lane, New Albany.

All appointments must be scheduled in advance at these clinics; no walk-ins will be allowed. Proof of Indiana residency and eligibility will be required upon arrival.

To schedule a vaccine, visit <https://ourshot.in.gov> or call 211 if you do not have access to a computer or require assistance.

School figures

The ISDH’s school dashboard was updated Monday, March 22 with data as of 11:59 p.m. Friday, March 19. The dashboard is updated weekly at noon Mondays.

Statewide, 149 schools reported no cases, 1,930 reported one or more cases and 289 have not reported.

During the latest update, Wabash County schools with one or more confirmed cases included:

■ Manchester Jr./Sr. High School (MHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, 55 total student positive cases, 11 total teacher positive cases and nine total staff positive cases.

■ Manchester Elementary School (MES) reported six total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Metro North Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

■ Heartland Career Center reported fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Sharp Creek Elementary School reported six

tary School reported six total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Northfield Jr./Sr. High School (NHS) reported 39 total student positive cases, six total teacher positive cases and eight total staff positive cases.

■ O.J. Neighbours Elementary School reported 12 total student positive cases, 10 total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Wabash Middle School reported 12 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Wabash High School reported 15 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ St. Bernard Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases and total teacher positive cases.

■ Southwood Jr./Sr. High School (SHS) reported fewer than five new student positive cases, 17 total student positive cases, fewer than five total teacher positive cases and fewer than five total staff positive cases.

■ Southwood Elementary School reported fewer than five each total student positive cases, total teacher positive cases and total staff positive cases.

On the Manchester Community Schools COVID-19 dashboard, the only update from the last month was from March 19, when two positive COVID-19 cases were reported at MHS, with 10 people quarantined.

Schools of higher learning are not listed on the ISDH schools dashboard. However, Manchester University maintains its own, separate dashboard. On-campus COVID-19 testing began again the week of Jan. 4. Updates to this dashboard will be made each Friday to reflect the current week of testing and the semester to date. As of Friday, March 19, a total of 539 tests were performed the previous week, with 100 percent being negative. There have been 4,469 total tests performed this semester, with 99.8 percent of them being negative, and .2 percent of them being positive. During that week, there was two self-reported cases on the North Manchester campus, and no self-reported cases on the Fort Wayne campus. This semester, there have been 11 self-reported cases on the North Manchester campus,

and seven self-reported cases on the Fort Wayne campus.

Local figures

■ On Saturday, the ISDH reported five new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,372, with 14,456 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 3.5 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 8.8 percent.

■ On Sunday, the ISDH reported five new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,377, with 14,469 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 4 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 9.7 percent.

■ On Monday, the ISDH reported two new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,379, with 14,472 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 3.9 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 9.4 percent.

■ On Tuesday, the ISDH reported three new local positive COVID-19 cases, bringing Wabash County’s total to 3,382, with 14,482 tests. The local seven-day positivity rating for all tests was 3.8 percent. The local seven-day positivity rating for unique individuals was 11.6 percent.

Statewide figures

On Tuesday, the ISDH reported that 701 additional Hoosiers have been diagnosed with COVID-19 through testing at state and private laboratories. That brings to 679,079 the number of Indiana residents now known to have had the novel coronavirus following corrections to the previous day’s dashboard.

To date, 12,553 Hoosiers are confirmed to have died from COVID-19, an increase of 18 from the previous day. Another 406 probable deaths have been reported based on clinical diagnoses in patients for whom no positive test is on record.

A total of 3,221,661 unique individuals have been tested in Indiana, up from 3,218,401 on Monday. A total of 8,681,198 tests, including repeat tests for unique individuals, have been reported to the ISDH since Feb. 26, 2020.

To find testing sites around the state, visit [www.coronavirus.in.gov](http://www.coronavirus.in.gov) and click on the COVID-19 testing information link.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

GALA

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“Guests are encouraged to wear masks when moving about the building and during the serving of dinner,” said Vanderpool. “Social distancing will be observed if necessary.”

Vanderpool said the purpose of the Spring Gala is to raise scholarship funds

for local seniors from Northfield, Southwood and Wabash high schools.

Vanderpool said following dinner, Chad Metzger from Metzger Auctions in North Manchester “will entice guests with a very entertaining dessert auction.”

Vanderpool said D.J. Dave Smith “Smitty” will “spin tunes for those who want to try out their dancing shoes.”

Tickets are available from Wabash Tri Kappa members and may also be purchased at Wabash City Hall, 202 S.Wabash St., and the office of Dr. Bing M. Fowler DDS, 1911 S. Wabash St.

For more information, call 765-661-8206.

*Rob Burgess, Wabash Plain Dealer editor, may be reached by email at [rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com](mailto:rburgess@wabashplaindealer.com).*

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